

SAINT JOHN PAUL II, THE PEOPLE'S POPE 2015 Legacy Art Contest

In our last newsletter, the winners of the **Saint John Paul II 2015 Legacy Art Contest** were announced including photos of the first place student entries. This contest was launched by our Washington Chapter to promote the legacy of Saint John Paul II to young students in the three area dioceses of Washington, Baltimore and Arlington. The theme of the contest was “*Saint John Paul II, the People’s Pope.*” The contest was designed to incorporate not only student art in grades 6-8, but also the instruction of classroom teachers and school-wide awareness of this “Saint of Today.” Opportunities were made available to schools, teachers and students. First place awards in each diocese were \$1,500 for the school, \$200 for the teacher and \$200 for the student. The entries were so inspiring that additional Honorable Mention awards were presented of \$100 for the teacher and \$50 for the student. It was exciting that the announcement of winners was made on April 27th, the first anniversary of the canonization of Saint John Paul II, further commemorating the feast day of our beloved Saint for our young generation of Catholics.

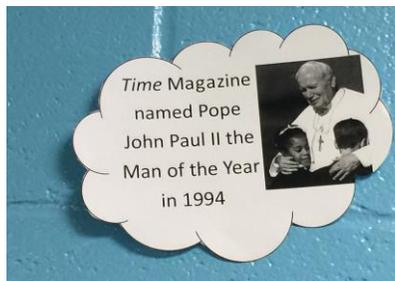
Cecilia Glembocki, Educational Legacy Project chair, made arrangements for award presentations in each diocese during the months of May and June. Each winner was awarded a certificate with the prizes. In addition, our organization presented each winning school with materials for the school library and their students. These items included illustrated books on John Paul II, papal history and the Blessed Mother; our organization’s produced Facts of St. John Paul II and Relics leaflets and St. John Paul II bookmarks; holy cards and commemorative coins of Pope John Paul II. The schools were both thrilled and grateful to receive these additional resources and gifts for their students.



DISPLAY OF RELIGIOUS ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS

Following are highlights of the inspiring and creative ways winning schools, teachers and students participated in this contest. The Washington Chapter can take pride in the success of this Legacy Educational Project which provided opportunities for young students to learn about our beloved Pope, Saint John Paul II.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON: St. John the Evangelist School in Clinton, Maryland won first place in all three categories. Principal, Ms. Ann Gillespie, involved the entire school in a fun fact learning activity. In the main school hallway a timeline of Saint John Paul II’s life was created in the form of clouds containing important events, fun facts and quotes. The middle school students would present a “question of the day” to the entire student body based on one of the clouds. During the day students would look through the clouds searching for the answer. Students could put their answer in a special box before lunch the following day. During afternoon prayers of the next day, middle school students would reveal the answer. Students with the correct answer had their names announced and received a special award for their efforts. Each daily question with its answer was added to a single bulletin board so that students could continue to see them each day.



Visual Arts Teacher, Ms. Sharon Wilson, incorporated the school year’s Catholic Identity theme of “Miracles Among Us” into this project. “Miracles Among Us” looked at miracle-makers who lived during

the time periods being studied in the curriculum of each grade. In the art curriculum, Ms. Wilson was able present Pope John Paul II as a miracle-maker of today. Ms. Wilson created a power point presentation to introduce her middle school students to the life of Saint John Paul II. After class discussions on the presentation, Ms. Wilson encouraged her students to create an art entry reflecting the theme based on what they learned. As students wanted to hear more about this Saint, they were encouraged to continue their research during Technology class and share what they found during their next art class. The middle school students stayed engaged in this project by continuing the “question of the day” activity even after the entries were completed.



MS. WILSON AND MS. GILLESPIE PROMOTING SAINT JOHN PAUL II

Cecilia Glembocki attended an awards ceremony and presented certificates and prizes to each winner at St. John the Evangelist School. Following are the Artist’s Statements which accompanied each entry.



ANN GILLESPIE, PRINCIPAL; SHARON WILSON, VISUAL ARTS TEACHER; ALYSSA BOYKIN, HM; CECILIA GLEMBOCKI, CHAIR; NICOLE MULEA, HM; AND DAWN LINGAD, FIRST PLACE.

“My piece is colorfully representing some of Saint John Paul II’s most important qualities in words and symbols. These qualities represent what was important about him, such as how he was faithful and forgiving. There are also quotes I found inspiring because not many people think of things the way he did in these quotes.”



-- Dawn Lingad



“Pope John Paul II loved children and believed that they were the future. He started the World Youth Days to bring the children to the church. The first meeting was in 1984 in St. Peter’s Square. I wanted to showcase his faith in children and the church”

-- Alyssa Boykin



“Pope John Paul II was the first pope from Poland. He also visited the most foreign dignitaries while he was Pope. He visited 179 countries. He was the first Pope to visit the White House. Everywhere he went, he attracted large crowds. He inspired so many to follow his main goal of world peace. He left behind a wonderful legacy of a great attempt at world peace where everyone got along with each other no matter their race or religion.”

-- Nicole Mulea

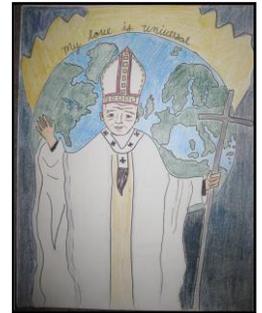
St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick, MD received a teacher and student Honorable Mention. Cecilia Glembocki presented the awards following a school mass before a student body of 500 students. Visual Arts Teacher, Ms. Lisa Cutchin, created a guided worksheet to develop Seven Key Points that made John Paul II “The Great Pope.” The Seven Key Points were put on a bulletin board and greeted students as arrived for art class.



CECILIA GLEBOCKI, CHAIR;
MIMI PESSAGNO, HM;
MS. LISA CUTCHIN, VISUAL
ARTS TEACHER

Artist’s Statement: *“This piece shows how much Pope John Paul II loved people of the world. He traveled to many countries to say mass, to give speeches and to visit the people. This showed that his love was universal. Pope John Paul II encouraged ecumenism and spoke and connected with people of different religions. In this way he spread his universal love.”*

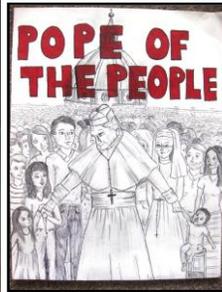
--Mimi Pessagno



KAREN SMITH, PRINCIPAL, RECEIVING
PAPAL RELATED MATERIALS FOR THE
SCHOOL AND GIFTS FOR THE 500 STUDENT
BODY FROM CECILIA GLEBOCKI

St. Joan of Arc School in Aberdeen, Maryland received a teacher Honorable Mention award. Art teacher, Ms. Robyn Barberry, also shared with her students the experience of seeing Pope John Paul II during his visit to Baltimore in 1985. She described to her students the tremendous impact St. John Paul II had upon her life. Her students were most interested to learn that young Karol Wojtyla enjoyed playing soccer and that as Pope forgave the man who nearly took his life. In many ways he was like us, but his piety was humbling, he radiated holiness. In preparing for the contest theme, “the People’s Pope,” students began to grasp how Pope John Paul II loved everyone, no matter who they were or where they came from or what they believed; thus people loved him back.

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON: Schuyler Workmaster, student at **St. John Academy in Mc Lean, Virginia**, won first place. Connie Donnelly, committee member, attended the school's morning flag ceremony and presented Schuyler her award. Her artist statement follows:



“This piece is a way for me to showcase my art but more importantly to recognize Pope John Paul II as a great person and a wonderful pope. I hope to show people the kindness and lovingness of Pope John Paul II to the people through my art.”

-- Schuyler Workmaster.

CONNIE DONNELLY, COMMITTEE; SCHUYLER WORKMASTER, FIRST PLACE; MICHAEL BUSEKRUS, PRINCIPAL

Nativity Catholic School in Burke, Virginia won the first place in the school and teacher categories. With the encouragement and support of the principal, Ms. Maria Kelly, this project became a collaborative effort throughout the school. The librarian and computer teacher provided a wealth of information through books and online resources for the students. During Religion classes, teachers would discuss the spiritual journey the students were about to undertake in conjunction with this art project. Homeroom teachers allowed for extra time in the art room. This learning experience gave the students confidence in representing their ideas as they developed a keen understanding of the significance of the legacy left by Saint John Paul II. When the

entries were completed, photographs of each student and art work were proudly displayed in the school.



SURROUNDED BY STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE ARE CONNIE DONNELLY, COMMITTEE; REV. ROBERT CILINSKI PASTOR; MS. MARIA KELLY, PRINCIPAL; MRS. ROBERTA PLUMB ART TEACHER AT PRESENTATION FOLLOWING SCHOOL MASS

Art teacher, Mrs. Roberta Plumb, encouraged her middle school students to do further research to better familiarize themselves with why Saint John Paul II is considered a great pope in recent generations. Mrs. Plumb brought in photographs and read to her students about his humble beginnings in Poland through his amazing journey, culminating in the individual the world considered “The People’s Pope.” Her classes discussed how the Pope traveled to many countries, especially where families suffered from poverty and war; met with dignitaries of many nationalities and races; and spoke eight languages to connect with people, all to spread his message of love around the world.

Mrs. Plumb shared her personal experience of the Pope's visit to Washington, DC in 1979. At the time Mrs. Plumb was working as a photographer and took photos of the Pope's motorcade. She and her family members got close enough to the Pope that he reached out and blessed her infant nephew. Mrs. Plumb engaged her students by sharing this experience and the powerful emotions that came from being in the presence of such a remarkable man. She felt her students began to understand his incredible legacy and why Saint John Paul II will truly be remembered as "the People's Pope."